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PAGE 01 SEOUL 09850 210929Z
ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
I-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 /067 W
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TAGS: KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS ON PAK TONG-SON CASE
REF: SEOUL 9571

1. SEOUL PRESS NOVEMBER 19 CARRIED STORY FROM WASHINGTON QUOTING JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STEVENSON AS SAYING US-ROK NEGOTIATIONS ON PAK TONG-SON CASE WERE IN STALEMATE OVER DISAGREEMENT ON LOCATION FOR COMMUNICATING WITH PAK. STEVENSON REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THERE WERE NO CURRENT PLANS FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO MEET, BUT HE HOPED THE SEOUL SIDE WOULD TRY TO MAKE "NEW PROGRESS".

2. WEEKEND PRESS ALSO CARRIED REPORT OF COUNSEL JAWORSKI'S REMARKS IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA TO EFFECT THAT ROKG APPEARED TO BE RECONSIDERING ITS POSITION. STORY ADDS JAWORSKI SAID HIS COMMITTEE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE BOUND NY ANY DEALS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT MIGHT MAKE.

3. DURING PREVIOUS WEEK PRESS ALSO QUOTED FOREIGN MINISTER AS TELLING ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS

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NEAR CONCLUSION AND REQUIRED ONLY AGREEMENT ON ONE ITEM. ALSO DURING PAST WEEK, PRIME MINISTER CHOE REPORTEDLY TOLD ANOTHER ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE (IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION) HE WAS PREPARED TO VISIT THE U.S. IF THAT WOULD HELP TO RESOLVE CASE. HAPTONG REPORT ON CHOE'S APPEARANCE FURTHER QUOTES HIM AS SAYING IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO GET A CLEAR STATEMENT OF U.S. POSITION ON THE CASE BECAUSE OF THE MANY U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED. LATTER COMMENT, HOWEVER, DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS.

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